

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 646

To establish the Commission to Study the Structure and Reauthorization
of the Federal Communications Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR (for himself, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. STEARNS, and Mrs. WILSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the Commission to Study the Structure and
Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Communica-
5 tions Commission Reform Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established the Commission to Study the
8 Structure and Reauthorization of the Federal Commu-

1 nications Commission (in this Act referred to as the
2 “Commission”).

3 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

4 The Commission shall study and report on the orga-
5 nizational structure of the Federal Communications Com-
6 mission, with an emphasis on determining—

7 (1) whether that structure should be changed to
8 reflect the current state of telecommunications, in-
9 cluding the rise of the Internet; and

10 (2) whether there should be a reduction in the
11 number of commissioners.

12 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

13 (a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission
14 shall be composed of 7 members, appointed as follows:

15 (1) 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives in consultation with the
17 Chairman of the Committee on Commerce of the
18 House of Representatives and in accordance with
19 subsection (c).

20 (2) 2 members appointed by the majority leader
21 of the Senate in consultation with the Chairman of
22 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
23 portation of the Senate and in accordance with sub-
24 section (c).

1 (3) 2 members appointed by the minority leader
2 of the House of Representatives in consultation with
3 the ranking minority member of the Committee on
4 Commerce of the House of Representatives.

5 (4) 1 member appointed by the Chairman and
6 ranking minority member of the Committee on Com-
7 merce of the House of Representatives acting jointly.

8 (b) APPOINTMENTS DEADLINE.—All appointments
9 under subsection (a) shall be made not later than 45 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 (c) APPOINTMENTS OF FORMER COMMISSIONERS.—
12 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the ma-
13 jority leader of the Senate shall each, under subsection
14 (a), appoint as a member of the Commission at least 1
15 former commissioner of the Federal Communications
16 Commission.

17 (d) TERMS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
19 pointed for the life of the Commission.

20 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
21 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
22 appointment was made.

23 (e) BASIC PAY.—

24 (1) RATES OF PAY.—Members shall receive no
25 pay for their service on the Commission.

1 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
2 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
3 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
4 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
5 States Code.

6 (f) QUORUM.—4 members shall constitute a quorum,
7 but a lesser number may hold hearings.

8 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

9 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
10 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
11 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
12 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

13 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
14 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
15 Commission, take any action that the Commission is au-
16 thorized to take by this section.

17 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 552 of
19 title 5, United States Code, popularly known as the
20 Freedom of Information Act, and section 552a of
21 title 5, United States Code, popularly known as the
22 Privacy Act of 1974, the Commission may secure di-
23 rectly from any department or agency of the United
24 States information necessary to enable it to carry
25 out this Act. Upon request of the Commission, the

1 head of such a department or agency shall furnish
2 that information to the Commission.

3 (2) INTERVIEWS.—Each commissioner of the
4 Federal Communications Commission shall, upon re-
5 quest of the Commission, provide the Commission a
6 reasonable opportunity to interview such commis-
7 sioner for the purpose of facilitating the work of the
8 Commission.

9 (d) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Com-
10 mission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests,
11 or devises of services or property, both real and personal,
12 for the purpose of facilitating the work of the Commission.

13 (e) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
14 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
15 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
16 States.

17 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the
18 request of the Commission, the Administrator of General
19 Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimburs-
20 able basis, the administrative support services necessary
21 for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under
22 this Act.

23 (g) GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE ASSISTANCE.—
24 Upon the request of the Commission, the Comptroller

1 General of the United States shall assist the Commission
2 in carrying out this Act.

3 (h) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may
4 contract with and compensate government and private
5 agencies or persons for supplies and other services.

6 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

7 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Commission shall transmit to the
9 Congress a report on the findings and conclusions of the
10 Commission.

11 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

12 The Commission shall terminate upon transmission
13 of the report required by section 6.

○